

GLOSSARY

Accrual Basis – a method of accounting wherein revenues are recognized when they are earned and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

Ad Valorem Tax –a tax levied on the assessed value of real property. Property taxes are Ad Valorem taxes.

Allotment – is a portion of the budget allotted for a given purpose.

Appropriation – a specific amount of money authorized by the City Council for the purchase of goods and services. The City Council makes separate appropriations for each expenditure activity.

Assessed Property Value – the value set upon real estate or other property by the County as a basis for levying taxes in the City.

Authorized Positions – the number of regular employees in the City government. The City Council sets the number of Authorized Positions in adopting the budget.

Balanced Budget – a budget in which planned revenues are equal to planned expenditures. All budgets are required by the State of North Carolina to be balanced.

Benefits – payments by the City to provide benefits to employees. Examples include Social Security, retirement, medical insurance, and life insurance.

Bond Rating – the level of credit risk as evaluated by a bond company associated with the City's bond issue. A bond rating ranges from AAA, the highest possible, to D, or default. The higher the City's bond rating, the lower the interest rate to the City on projects financed with bonds.

Bonds – a certificate of debt issued by an entity, guaranteeing payment of the original investment, plus interest, by a specific future date. In the budget document, these payments are identified as 'debt service.' Bonds are used to obtain long-term financing for some capital improvements.

Budget – an annual proposed plan for receiving and spending money for a fiscal year.

Budget Ordinance – the ordinance that levies taxes and appropriates revenues for specified purposes during a fiscal year.

Capital Balances – funds available from the completion of a capital project which are transferred to another capital project.

Capital Outlay – equipment or improvements with an expected life of more than one year and a value of more than \$1000.

CADD – Computer Aided Drafting Design system.

Contingency – an appropriation of funds to cover unforeseen events that occur during the fiscal year.

COPs – Certificates of Participation. A municipal obligation secured by relatively short-term leases on public facilities. Voter approval is not required.

Core Values – The City's principles of quality.

Debt Service – the sum of money required to pay installments of principal and interest on borrowed funds such as bonds.

Department – the principal organizational units of the City government. Each City employee is assigned to a department.

Division – a sub-unit of a department. Larger departments are composed of several divisions having a specific function within the department.

Effectiveness – Indicator of service quality of (outcome) progress toward objectives. Tells "how well" the degree to which customers are satisfied with a service or how accurately or timely a service is provided.

Efficiency – Cost per unit of output or level of service provided per employee or work period. Reflects the relationship between work performed and the resources required performing it.

Encumbrance – an amount of money committed for the payment of goods or services for which payment has not yet been made.

Enterprise Fund – a fund established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The intent of the City Council is to fund the cost of enterprise services fully or predominantly through user fees. There are seven enterprise funds: Public Utilities Fund, Golf Course Fund, Parking Facilities Fund, Solid Waste Management Fund, Storm Water Management Fund, Facility Fee Fund, and Groundwater Utility Fund.

Fiscal Year – a 12 month period to which the annual budgets apply. In North Carolina, fiscal years for local governments are required by State Statute to begin July 1 and end June 30.

Focus Areas – chosen by City Council that drive the strategic direction and resources of the City.

Fund – a set of accounts to record revenues and expenditures associated with a specific purpose in accordance with regulations, restrictions, or limitations, and constituting an independent fiscal and accounting entity.

Fund Balance – the accumulated excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses for governmental functions.

GTV-8 – the City of Wilmington’s government television channel (cable channel 8).

General Obligation Bonds – bonds which are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing government.

GIS – Geographic Information System.

Goals – broad guiding principals of intention and desired results as put forth in the Mission.

Grant – a payment from one level of government to another. Federal and State aid to local governments is often in this form. Grants are usually made for specific purposes.

Interfund Transfer – as authorized by City Council, the transfer of budgeted funds between accounting funds.

Intergovernmental Revenues – revenues the City receives from federal, state, and county governments in the form of grants, reimbursements, payments in lieu, shared revenues, and/or entitlements.

Internal Service Fund – an accounting fund used to finance goods or services provided by one governmental department or agency to another on a cost reimbursement basis.

ISO – Insurance Service Office, Inc. This organization evaluates and rates a community’s ability to respond and suppress fires. This rating provides the insurance industry with the level of risk associated in a given community. The ratings range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best public protection.

Local Government Commission (LGC) – The Local Government Commission (LGC) is a non-profit, nonpartisan, membership organization that provides inspiration, technical assistance, and networking to local elected officials and other dedicated community leaders.

Lease Purchase Agreements – contracted agreements which are termed leases, but which apply the lease amount to the purchase.

Lis Pendens – a pending suit or lien placed through the courts on real property.

Mission – broad statement identifying who, for what purpose, for whom, and why.

Modified Accrual Basis -- a method of accounting wherein revenues are recorded when the amount becomes measurable, and expenditures are recorded when the liability is actually incurred.

Nondepartmental Accounts – items of expenditure essential to the operation of the City which either do not fall within the function of any department or which provide for expenditures related to more than one department.

Objectives – Specific statements of measurable targets that are to be achieved in order to meet a Goal.

Operating Expenses – costs, other than expenditures for salaries and benefits and capital outlay, which are necessary to support the services of the organization. Examples are: printing charges, departmental supplies, electricity, and construction materials.

Outside Agency – Not-for-profit agencies providing human, ecological, and economic development services. The City funds many outside agencies that benefit the citizens of Wilmington and provide services consistent with the City's objectives.

Performance Measures - quantifiable means to evaluate workload, efficiency, and effectiveness performance levels, directly related to a department's goals and objectives.

Personnel -- expenditures made for salaries and wages for regular and temporary employees of the City.

Property Tax – a tax levied on the assessed value of real property. This tax is also known as Ad Valorem Tax.

Rolling Stock – term used to refer to the City's fleet of wheeled vehicles.

Section – a sub-unit of a division having a specific function within the division.

Sundry – miscellaneous appropriations for the general operation of a fund but not directly associated with a specific department's operating expenditures. Sundry appropriations can include non-departmental accounts, outside agencies, debt service, transfers to other funds, and contingency.

Surplus – an excess of revenues over expenditures.

Tax Base – the total assessed value of real, personal and state appraised property within the City.

Tax Year – the calendar year in which tax bills are sent to property owners. The 2005 tax bills are reflected as revenue receipts to the City in the fiscal year 2005-06.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – the governing body for the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) – combines the City and County zoning and subdivision ordinances into one document.

Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – a group of governmental entities and private enterprise formed to steer long range planning in New Hanover County.

Workload – Input/Output. How much or how many products or services were handled or produced.